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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 18 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

LIST OF REPORTS REQUESTED IN DRAFT DECISIONS (continued)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to an updated list - prepared by the secretariat and circulated to delegations - of the documents requested in the draft decisions proposed by the Council's subsidiary bodies.

2. Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that, in general, UNDP was functioning well. However, any high-level change in the management of a major organization, especially one as vast and complex as UNDP, posed important challenges for its governing body and offered a chance to take stock, raise new issues and re-examine old ones. If necessary, UNDP should alter course to take account of new realities, different demands and changed resources and priorities. The current juncture was especially strategic because it coincided with the restructuring process and with global efforts to implement Agenda 21, in which UNDP must play a vital role. The Council had a unique opportunity to exercise its policy responsibilities with maximum initiative and creativity.

3. The Council should establish clear policy guidance for the new Administrator with regard to some of the critical issues under consideration which required immediate action. It should defer consideration of certain significant questions until the new Administrator had had sufficient time to study the issues and report back to it. The new Administrator should share his vision of UNDP's mission and future with the Council as soon as possible. Upon assuming office, he should promptly commence an assessment of the management and mission of UNDP, in consultation with members of the Council, non-members and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. At the Council's special session in February 1994, he should convey his views with regard to the fundamental issues that had been common themes of its debates.

4. Mrs. VASISHT (India) said that her delegation was concerned about the increase in the number of parallel meetings during the session. It had been unable to ensure optimum participation on all issues. That problem was of particular concern to developing countries which were not in a position to increase the size of their delegations. She hoped that a solution would be found at the Council's organizational session.

5. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that he was concerned that the Council was requesting UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to prepare more than 25 reports in 1994 at a time of growing concern about resource constraints and of new demands on the two organizations. The time spent producing such reports could be much better spent in furthering the cause of UNDP and UNFPA in the field. The Council must consider ways of dealing with the ever-increasing paper mountain.

6. Mr. ROHNER (Switzerland) said that the list of reports included reports that the Council requested every two years; there was therefore some repetition and not as many new reports were being requested as the list suggested. In general, however, he agreed that the Council should consider which reports were really necessary. He was grateful that reports had become shorter without losing substance.

7. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Committee) said that it was true that some reports on the list were ones that were due every two years. In any event, the secretariat would do its best to reduce the amount of documentation as far as possible.

8. The PRESIDENT said he took it that, the Council agreed that, taking into account the views expressed by delegations, the Administrator should prepare the reports for the appropriate sessions, as listed in the document before it.

9. It was so decided.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT OF CAMEROON

10. The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the delegation of Cameroon that Mr. Kodock, Minister for Planning and Territorial Management of Cameroon, had sent a message which he wished to have delivered to the Council.

11. Mr. MOUSSA (Cameroon) said that Cameroon attached the greatest importance to the Council session. Africa was currently experiencing enormous difficulties in pursuing sustainable economic development, particularly because a substantial part of its resources and energy were being used to institute political and economic reforms. During that period of transition, the community of donors must provide the greatest possible support, through UNDP and other channels. In recent years there had been a decline in UNDP's resources, even though - because of its mandate and its experience in the field - it was best placed to support Africa's efforts. Cameroon hoped that UNDP would focus on strengthening the capacities of African countries to draw up their own plans for reform, implement programmes and exchange experience.

12. Cameroon attached particular importance to the implementation of Capacity 21; UNDP's resources for that purpose should be greatly increased. Emphasis should be placed on assistance to countries with great potential for the global environment, high-risk countries, and countries which had shown a firm determination to draw up plans for protection of the environment.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS
(DP/1993/SCPM/L.3/Add.8/Rev.1 and DP/1993/SCPM/L.3/Add.12, Add.14 and Add.17)

13. Mr. STELZER (Austria), Rapporteur of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters, said that the Standing Committee had met during the fortieth session of the Council, and had had before it 27 country programmes and 15 extensions. It had also considered 15 UNFPA country programmes, as well as other important items such as programme management issues, including decentralization and programme approach, field visits and evaluation. Its recommendations were

(Mr. Stelzer, Austria)

embodied in the draft decisions set out in documents DP/1993/SCPM/L.3/Add.8/Rev.1 and DP/1993/SCPM/L.3/Add.12, Add.14 and Add.17.

14. In draft decision DP/1993/SCPM//L.3/Add.14, a new paragraph VI should be added; it would read:

"Takes note of the oral report on assistance to Cambodia."

The subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

15. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Committee) said that in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the French text of the draft decision set out in document DP/1993/SCPM/L.3/Add.12, the words "sous reserve que" should be changed to "sachant que" and the word "présente" to "présentera".

16. The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decisions prepared by the Standing Committee, as submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

17. It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.1 and annex, DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.2 and Add.3 and annex and DP/1993/BFC/L.20 Add.4-6)

18. Mr. RADE (Netherlands), Chairman of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, said that the Committee had completed its work at its sixth formal meeting the previous day. He thanked representatives for the businesslike manner in which they had participated in the meetings.

19. Ms. HOLM-ERICSON (Sweden), Rapporteur of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, said that the final report of the Committee would be issued as document DP/1993/72. The recommendations before the Council were contained in documents DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.1 and annex, DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.2 and Add.3 and annex, and DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.4-6. Because of time constraints, the very minor amendments approved at the end of the Committee's deliberations had not been included in the documentation. She requested the Council's authorization to incorporate those amendments in the final text of the report and to introduce the Committee's recommendations together as a whole.

20. The PRESIDENT said that approach was acceptable.

21. Ms. HOLM-ERICSON (Sweden), Rapporteur of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, briefly introduced the recommendations. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.1 and annex contained the Committee's recommendation on UNFPA. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.2 contained the Committee's recommendation on the annual review of the financial situation, 1992. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.3 and annex contained the Committee's recommendations on the revised budget estimates for 1992-1993 and budget estimates for 1994-1995. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.4 contained the Committee's recommendation on audit reports and other matters. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.5 contained the

(Ms. Holm-Ericson, Sweden)

Committee's recommendation on financial regulations. Document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.6 contained the Committee's recommendations on procurement from developing countries.

22. In considering the items before it, particularly the budget estimates for 1994-1995, the Committee had also taken into account a number of documents and related draft plenary decisions dealing with various matters.

23. The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the recommendations of the Budgetary and Finance Committee, as submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

24. It was so decided.

25. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had not opposed the decision concerning the budget estimates for 1994-1995 (DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.3 and annex) in the interest of securing a consensus. However, it regretted that the Administrator's proposals concerning the senior management structure had not been endorsed in their entirety. The proposals represented an important contribution to restructuring in the economic and social sectors, and the Governing Council decision was not in the best interests of UNDP.

26. Mr. CLAVIJO (Observer for Colombia) said he was concerned that the Spanish and French versions of the draft decision contained in document DP/1993/BFC/L.2/Add.6 failed to make a distinction between the concepts of national execution (para. 5 of the decision) and national implementation (para. 6). The difference was a vital aspect of the reform in occupational activities and needed to be properly reflected in the various language versions.

27. Mr. GRAISSE (Secretary of the Council) agreed that there was a problem in rendering the subtle difference between implementation and execution in the French and Spanish languages. Consultations would be held with the Office of Conference Services in an effort to find an acceptable formula.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DRAFTING GROUP (DP/1993/L.10 and Add.1-18)

28. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) Co-Chairman of the Drafting Group, introduced the report of the Drafting Group (DP/1993/L.10 and Add.1-18).

29. Mr. RYSINSKI (Poland), Co-Chairman of the Drafting Group, expressed his appreciation for the spirit of cooperation that had prevailed in the Drafting Group.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.10

30. Draft decision DP/1993/L.10 was adopted.

31. Ms. LONGINOTTI (Italy) said that her delegation welcomed the new membership of Eritrea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Both countries would contribute greatly to the work of UNDP. Italy was especially pleased that Eritrea, after 30 years of war and civil strife, had finally become a Member of the United Nations. UNDP could play an important role in the development of Eritrea.

32. Mr. MOHAMED (Sudan) extended a heartfelt welcome to Eritrea.

Draft decisions DP/1993/L.10/Add.1-9

33. Draft decisions DP/1993/L.10/Add.1-9 were adopted.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.10

34. Mr. GOUMENNY (Observer for Ukraine) said his country attached great importance to the draft decision before the Council. While he supported UNDP activities in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, he stressed that UNDP programmes would have greater impact if their financing were to be increased.

35. Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.10 was adopted.

Draft decisions DP/1993/L.10/Add.11-16

36. Draft decisions DP/1993/L.10/Add.11-16 were adopted.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.17

37. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), Co-Chairman of the Drafting Group, said that changes had been made in the draft decision set out in document DP/1993/L.10/Add.17 to accommodate the views of the Council. Paragraph 1 had been deleted in its entirety. Paragraph 4 had been replaced by the following: "Welcomes the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/11), and requests him to take full account of the views expressed by delegations on Capacity 21 at the fortieth session of the Governing Council". In paragraph 5, the phrase "on this basis", between commas, had been inserted after the word "Administrator". In paragraph 7, the phrase "in order to ensure that" had been deleted and been replaced by the phrase "with a view to incorporating"; the words "is incorporated" had also been deleted.

38. Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.17 was adopted.

Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.18

39. Draft decision DP/1993/L.10/Add.18 was adopted.

40. Mr. MONROE (United States of America) said his delegation regarded the phrase "the Occupied Palestinian Territories" as merely demographically and geographically descriptive, and not indicative of sovereignty.

41. Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine) thanked all those delegations that had participated in the difficult task of reaching a consensus on the draft decision just adopted, especially the Algerian delegation. The draft decision had been well balanced at the outset, but had encountered unfair objections and attempts to impede its adoption. The international community and UNDP should take note of the dire circumstances, in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, of the Palestinian people, which was indeed near famine, owing to the closing of the Occupied Territories by Israel during the previous three months. The decision to delete one paragraph from the draft decision demonstrated the indifference to the Palestinian people of the delegation that had objected to its inclusion; the international community should show more understanding of the situation of the Palestinian people. He thanked all those States that had increased their contributions to the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People.

OTHER REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5, DP/1993/13-16, DP/1993/23, DP/1993/25, DP/1993/27, DP/1993/28, DP/1993/56, DP/1993/57 and Add.1, and DP/1993/58 and Add.1)

42. The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of documents DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5, DP/1993/13-16, DP/1993/23, DP/1993/25, DP/1993/27, DP/1993/28, DP/1993/56, DP/1993/57 and Add.1, and DP/1993/58 and Add.1.

43. It was so decided.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

44. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator) said that the Governing Council had accomplished a great deal during its fortieth session and had worked constructively in the best Council tradition. The current session marked the beginning of a new era for UNDP. He was certain that his successor would carry out the Council's decisions with enthusiasm. It was gratifying that, as a result of decisions taken at the current session, Capacity 21 could effectively be launched.

45. The PRESIDENT declared the fortieth session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.